

Chesterfield / Colonial Heights

Inside CSA

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Spotlight on Success



"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney

The end of the school year is always an exciting time. Students and teachers are anticipating a long break from the rigors of school, vacation plans are being finalized, teens are hitting the workplace full time, and camps and day programs gear up for summer fun. However, for some students the end of the school year has far greater meaning. For these students, the end of the school year signifies the closing of one chapter in the story of their life. As that last word

is written, a fresh, new page is turned. These students, known as Graduates, have worked hard to get where they are, but realize that the adventure has just begun.

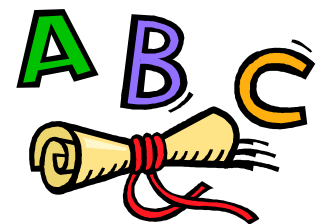
This year the Chesterfield and Colonial Heights CSA office is proud to announce that 14 students fulfilled the requirements for high school graduation during the 2010-2011 school year.

As many of you probably remember, making it through high school was not easy. In the best of situations high school is challenging, but coupled with a disability or any one of the issues that plague children in foster care, completing high school can be an insurmountable task. It is no wonder that less than 50% of children in foster care receive a high school diploma or equivalent.

We, at the CSA office, would like to congratulate the 2011 graduates on their GREAT accomplishment.

Jonathan	Danielle
Marie	JaVon
Christine	Ashley
Traevon	Janeva
Amber	Josh
Andy	Katie
Calvin	Jamie

We wish you all the best and great success in the future!!



VALUES

The Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Community Policy and Management Team believes the family and home community provides the best environment for raising children and that collaborative activities ensure best service provision.

CSA MISSION

Our mission is to preserve families by providing community-based services for at risk youth.

CSA VISION

To ensure the provision of child-centered, family-focused, community-based services.

CSA BASICS

CSA in the NEWS- “No Accountability?”

By Karen Reilly-Jones

That is what Virginia Governor McDonnell thinks about how localities, how we, operate. This past General Assembly he proposed ways to cut funding for children and family services. McDonnell said his office recommended larger cuts because the program (CSA) is “a blank check with virtually no accountability.” McDonnell said he’s concerned about the lack of checks and balances, and wants to give state officials oversight and some say over how local governments spend the state’s money.

Over the last few months CSA programs across the state have had their share of public lashing as four localities’ financial audits results were published in the news. These localities were called out for poor management and oversight, lack of fiscal controls, and lack of clear and enforced policies and procedures. Whereas we, in Chesterfield / Colonial Height, have had significant successes in our locality over the last few years with:

- ♦ **Reducing the number of children entering into foster care,**
- ♦ **Reducing the amount of time children are placed out of the home,**
- ♦ **Increasing community based supports for families,**
- ♦ **Increasing community partnerships and collaboration efforts**
- ♦ **Increasing family engagement activities, and**
- ♦ **Decreasing total program expenditures**

We recognize the need to provide guidance on policies and procedures to ensure effective services and fiscal responsibility.

I recently celebrated my 10th year anniversary with the County, and during my time here I am proud to work with so many people who care deeply about doing what is best for the community’s children and families. I am often amazed about the commitment and dedication I see from people who work in partner agencies. So when I read articles about localities that are being scrutinized for their CSA programs and being asked to repay millions of dollars to the state, it causes me to pause and ask how we would be perceived by public scrutiny.

Yes, we have made great achievements and demonstrated fantastic outcomes as a community, but are we able also to demonstrate clear and consistent processes and procedures? Does everyone even know proper process and procedures or understand their importance?

Policies and Procedures: YUCK!!! BORING!! REALLY???

Yes, policies and procedures. Can we come to embrace them as something good? Well, they are necessary and actually are very important in efficient organizations. Lack of established and implemented policy and procedures was a significant issue among all of the locality audits. Knowing and following simple procedures consistently is an ounce of prevention that, as Ben Franklin would support, be worth millions. As I stated earlier, we are surrounded by many caring community partners who want to help children and families and are extremely busy in the day to day hands on work. Who has the time to read and study policy and procedures let alone get everything done that needs to get done daily? We all are busy and burdened with lots to do, but take a moment and realize that resources are tight and we need to be smart with what we have available for services. If a mistake can and has costs millions of dollars, that could mean less money available to serve those in our community. Even the Governor of Virginia thinks that we locals are irresponsible with our decision making and take no accountability for public funds.

I know that is not so, we are great *stewards of the public trust*, and we *do care* how effective services are to achieve desired outcomes. This next year, our office will be working on supporting partner agencies to learn to love – or at least- understand and apply consistent policy and procedures to ensure proper fiscal controls. We all will benefit from being reminded and brushing up on these things and who knows....maybe even learn something new.

RESOURCE UPDATE-MEDICAID WAIVERS

Medicaid Waivers were developed to encourage people with disabilities and the elderly to access services in their homes and communities. These waivers provide funding to serve people who are eligible for long-term care in institutions such as hospitals, nursing facilities, and intermediate-care facilities. Through Medicaid Waivers, states can "waive" certain requirements including the requirement that individuals live in institutions in order to receive Medicaid funding. There are seven waivers currently available in Virginia. These waivers are:

- ◆ **Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Waiver**
- ◆ **Day Support Waiver**
- ◆ **Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support (IFDDS or DD) Waiver**
- ◆ **Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction (EDCD) Waiver**
- ◆ **Technology-Assisted (Tech) Waiver**
- ◆ **HIV/AIDS Waiver**
- ◆ **Alzheimer's Assisted Living Waiver**

As stated above the intent of these waivers is to provide funding for community based services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. While the services provided for vary depending on the waiver a person has, Medicaid Waivers can fund the following: personal care services, adult day health care, respite, consumer directed services, personal emergency response systems (PERS), medication monitoring, day support, supported employment, therapeutic consultation, attendant care, crisis supervision, assistive technology, companion services, skilled nursing, family and caregiver training, environmental modifications, prevocational services, assisted living, nursing evaluations, therapeutic recreational programming and case management.

The financial eligibility requirements for waivers are quite different from the financial eligibility requirements for regular Medicaid coverage. Regardless of the age of the person with a disability, financial eligibility for a Medicaid Waiver is based on the individual's income and assets only. Other sources of income and assets, such as those of the individual's parents, are disregarded. A person with a disability may have income

equal to 300% of the maximum Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment amount, and up to \$2,000 in available assets such as savings, stocks, and bonds. If a child's parents or caregivers have an income that is too high to qualify the family for Medicaid, the child with a disability may still receive a waiver slot. Having a waiver does not affect any other government funds for which a person is eligible.

You can find out more information about Medicaid Waivers in Virginia at http://dmasva.dmas.virginia.gov/Content_attachments/ltc/ltc_md_waiver.pdf. By following this link, you will be directed to an informational guide created by the Partnership for Individuals with Disabilities and the VA-Lend Program. This guide is an invaluable resource and will provide you with more in-depth information on eligibility criteria, service provision, service definitions, dispute guidelines and additional resources and support.

**CHECK
THIS OUT!**



CVPY 2011 Partnership Awards

The CVPY will recognize two individuals, one from the public sector and one from the private sector who have demonstrated excellence in the area of service, collaboration and communication to children, youth and families.

Nominations for 2011 are now open. To make a nomination, download the forms from the CVPY website <http://www.cvpv.org>. Email them as an attachment to nominations@cvpy.org. Nominations are due no later than September 9, 2011. Winners will be announced September 26, 2011 at the CSA Vendor Fair/Training Day.

**BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THE VENDOR FAIR!!!
PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION BEGINS MONDAY, AUGUST 1st**

www.cvpv.org

THE FACES OF FAPT-TRICIA QUEENAN COLONIAL HEIGHTS FAPT



Explain your role on FAPT.

I represent the Colonial Heights Office on Youth. I listen to the cases brought and help find the appropriate unique services for the individual/family. My specialty is knowing what is available in our community.

How long have you been a FAPT member for Chesterfield/Colonial Heights? It will be 7 years in September.

How did you get involved with FAPT? I was asked by my boss to sit in on a meeting and have never left.

What do you like about being on FAPT?

I like being able to help families in creative ways.

What is your best and/or favorite FAPT success story?

I think one of my favorite cases is one of the first ones I heard. I have followed this case for 7 years listening to the ups and downs. One of the high points is that this year he graduated and has plans to go on to Community College. YEAH!!

What is your favorite FAPT office holiday decoration?

Since we meet at the Colonial Heights Library and have no decorations I would have to say my favorite Decoration is all the smiling faces from our team members, *Go Purple!*

DID YOU KNOW.....

- ◆ The Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services Program, operated through Commonwealth Catholic Charities, provides school liaison services to refugee and immigrant youth. To learn more call 804-545-5907.
- ◆ Commonwealth Parenting offers several low-cost classes for parents, including many selections specifically for fathers. Find out just what classes are available at: www.commonwealthparentingcenter.org
- ◆ The Offender Aid and Restoration program (OAR) provides transition services to incarcerated individuals pre and post release. Find out more at www.oarric.org

SAVE THE DATE
September 26, 2011

**10TH Annual Central
Virginia CSA Vendor Fair**

www.cvpvy.org

A Word from the Web-Master

We wanted to remind you of an easily accessible resource to use for your CSA related work. We have an updated, user-friendly website just for our department, Comprehensive Services, which is at the ready for your use 24/7! To find us go to www.chesterfield.gov - select "Departments" at the top left of the page, scroll down to "Comprehensive Services" then click and use!!!

You will find our staff's contact information, access to all CSA FAPT paperwork (CSA Family Assessment and Planning Paperwork), resources for families, resources for workers, and our newsletters on our website. It really is everything you wanted to know about CSA, FAPT and MORE all in one spot, so please click on and surf around - we welcome your comments - feel free to give them directly to me, the CSA Web Master - Jane Lanham!

